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NEWS.

IN our January issue we announced the death of Dr. Vincenzo Diamare of the Institute of Comparative Anatomy of the University of Naples. We are unable now to trace the source of our information, but Dr. Diamare writes us that he is alive and well, and desires to live on. We wish Dr. Diamare a long and useful life and beg that he will forget our unfortunate error.

A botanical club has been organized in Washington with Professor Edward L. Greene as president and Charles L. Pollard as secretary.

The list of officers and councillors elected for the present year by the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences is remarkable for the few names known to science.

The borings in the coral reef at Funafuti have been discontinued at a depth of 1114 feet. The drill was then in what is called "coral reef" rock, but as yet no studies have been made to ascertain whether it be of recent or extinct forms.

A movement is being inaugurated to increase the endowment of the University of Cambridge. \$2,500,000 is desired, and two persons have already pledged \$100,000.

The British Association meets in Dover this year.

There was an earthquake in Mexico, January 24, lasting three minutes. Three hundred houses were damaged and ten were completely destroyed.

At the R. I. College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (Kingston), the special course of instruction in poultry culture for 1899 began on January 9, to continue four weeks. Nearly forty applications for enrollment for the course were received, but owing to limited accommodations the class has been kept down to about twenty in number. Several who could not take this course have enrolled their names for the next in 1900.

Bulletin of the Cooper Ornithological Club is the title of a new bi-monthly bird journal, published in Santa Clara, Cal., under the editorship of Chester Barlow. The sphere of the journal will be

limited to the ornithological interest of the extreme west, more especially California, and will serve as the organ of the Cooper Ornithological Club.

Many naturalists will probably be interested to learn that the house of E. Merck, of Darmstadt, have begun the publication of a new magazine, *Merck's Digest*, which will give accounts of the various chemicals manufactured by the firm, with reports upon their physiological action. As we understand, the magazine will be supplied free to all chemists and physiologists applying for it.

A successor to E. Ray Lankester as Linacre professor of Comparative Anatomy in the University of Oxford will be elected this spring.

The Royal Microscopical Society has elected Mr. E. M. Nelson to the presidency.

The Russian Geographical Society has established a seismological observatory in Irkutsk, Siberia.

A natural history museum was opened at King Williams Town, Cape Colony, October 5.

Applications for the use of the American women's table at the Naples Zoological Station should be sent to Dr. Ida H. Hyde, 1 Berkeley Street, Cambridge, Mass. Dr. Hyde will give information as to cost of living, etc., to any who may wish it. Two students can occupy the table at the same time — a fact which in some cases would make the study in Naples more agreeable.

The Biological Laboratory of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, located at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, will be open for its tenth season during July and August, 1899. The regular class work occupies six weeks from July 5. Courses are offered in High School Zoology by Dr. C. B. Davenport, of Harvard University, who is also the Director of the Laboratory. In Comparative Anatomy, by Professor H. S. Pratt, of Haverford College; in Invertebrate Embryology, by Professor C. P. Sigerfoos, of the University of Minnesota; in Botany, especially of Cryptogams, by Dr. D. S. Johnson, of Johns Hopkins University, assisted by Professor F. O. Grover, of Oberlin College; in Bacteriology, by Mr. N. F. Davis, of Bucknell University; in Microscopic Methods, by Mrs. Gertrude Crotty Davenport, formerly instructor at Kansas University. Opportunities are afforded for Original Investigations, especially in the Variation of

Animals with reference to the Origin of Species, the latter work being under the direction of Dr. Davenport. The laboratory offers dormitory and boarding accommodations on the grounds and under the control of the director. The laboratory is equipped with a naphtha launch, bacteriological apparatus, and a good working library. The tuition fee is \$20; board costs \$4.50, and rooms \$1.50 or \$3.00 per week. Application for admission or for the announcements may be made to Professor Franklin W. Hooper, 502 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., or to Dr. Charles B. Davenport, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Appointments: Mr. W. Anderson, of the Indian geological survey, director of the newly instituted geological survey of Natal; M. Güntz, professor of mineralogical chemistry in the Faculty of Sciences at Nancy; L. B. Wilson, demonstrator in pathology and bacteriology in the University of Minnesota.

Deaths: Dr. Giuseppe Bosso, bacteriologist in the University of Turin, January 17; Wilhelm Dames, professor of geology and paleontology in the University of Berlin, December 22, aged 55; Fr. Gay, of the University of Montpellier, France, a student of the algæ, aged 40; Major Jed. Hotchkiss, of Staunton, Va., a well-known writer on subjects in the field of economic geology, January 18, aged 71; Pastor Christian Kaurin, of Sand Jarlsberg, Norway, student of mosses, May 25, 1898, aged 66; Henry Alleyne Nicholson, professor of natural history in the University of Aberdeen, and well known for his textbooks and his paleontological researches, January 19, aged 54; T. Caruel, professor of botany in Florence, Italy.